

Soviets present draft missiles pact

GENEVA (Agencies) — The Soviet Union presented a draft treaty on Monday calling for elimination of all Soviet and U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe, Soviet arms delegation spokesman Vladimir Shabanov said. "We have presented a draft treaty, it covers all aspects for an agreement to eliminate medium-range missiles in Europe," he told reporters. Soviet negotiator Alexei Obukhov spent more than two hours at the American diplomatic mission in Geneva explaining the draft to a U.S. arms negotiating team led by Maynard Giffman. It was the first detailed document setting out a range of new initiatives on the so-called "Euromissiles" since Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said in February he was ready to sign a separate pact on such weapons. Shabanov declined to give any further details. U.S. arms delegation spokesman Terry Shroeder declined to comment on the meeting. Mr. Gorbachev outlined his proposals last week in a speech in Moscow. He said the Soviets would propose eliminating both sides' medium-range missiles in Europe over a five-year period, with each side retaining 100 warheads.

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Ramadan begins today

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief Islamic Justice Mohammad Mheilan announced on Monday that the moon was sighted Monday evening, marking the beginning of the holy fasting month of Ramadan on Tuesday, April 28. In a statement issued on the occasion, Sheikh Mheilan extended his greetings to His Majesty King Hussein and wished the Arab and Islamic worlds prosperity and progress.

King congratulates Iraqi president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a cable to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Monday congratulating him on his 50th birthday. In his cable, King Hussein wished President Hussein continued good health and happiness and the Iraqi people further progress, prosperity and victory.

Holiday announced

AMMAN (Petra) — All government departments and public institutions will be closed on Saturday, May 2, to mark Labour Day which falls on Friday, May 1, according to an official statement by Prime Minister Zaid Rifi. Labour Day is one of the public holidays in Jordan.

Iraqi film week begins in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Mohammad Al Khatib on Monday inaugurated an Iraqi film week at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC). During the event, organised by the Iraqi embassy in cooperation with the Department of Art and Culture and the RCC, six Iraqi films will be shown. A book exhibition was also held on the occasion.

400 held after protests in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly 400 protesters, many chanting the slogan, "the whole world is watching," were arrested Monday as they sat down in front of entrances to CIA headquarters during the morning rush hour. The non-violent protest was a major event in three days of demonstrations against President Ronald Reagan's policies in Central America and southern Africa. U.S. Park Police, with jurisdiction over the north gate of the facility in nearby Langley, Virginia, arrested 175 people. Fairfax county, Virginia, police, with jurisdiction over the south gate, arrested more than 200.

Iran expels Australian diplomats

CANBERRA (AP) — Iran is expelling two Australian diplomats after government-funded Australian television broadcast a programme that poked fun at Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Foreign Ministry officials said Monday. The Australian government was "stunned" and worried that produce exports worth several hundred million dollars could be jeopardised, said the officials.

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Egypt closes PLO offices in retaliation for PNC 'insolence'

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt on Monday ordered the closure of all Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) offices in Cairo in retaliation for hostile debates at the Palestine National Council (PNC) meeting in Algiers.

Foreign Minister Ahmed Esmat Abdul Meguid said in a statement: "Egypt has to put an end to this insolence... and decided to close all PLO offices and institutions in Egypt."

Officials said the PLO was informed of the decision earlier Monday and the offices were closed before the announcement was made.

The statement read by Mr. Meguid did not specify whether Palestinian officials are being expelled, but its wording indicated they were.

"The Arab Republic of Egypt has decided to close all offices of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the organisations belonging to it (in Egypt) and will take the necessary measures related to this," Mr. Abdul Meguid said.

Diplomatic sources said seven offices of the PLO and related agencies were covered by the order.

The closure was to answer resolutions passed at the weekend by the PNC that referred to previous resolutions highly critical of the Egyptian government.

The PLO and most Arab states severed ties with Egypt after its 1979 treaty with Israel. PLO links were restored, after PLO Chair-

Jordan's first test-tube babies reportedly doing well after birth

By Saleem B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Najah Fawaz Dababneh will go down in Jordan's medical records as the first woman to deliver test-tube babies in the Kingdom. She gave birth to a twin on Monday at the Khaledi Hospital, sources said.

The two new-born boys, one weighing 2,200 grammes and the other 1,550 grammes, were in the incubator room and in good condition, the hospital sources and nurses who saw the babies told the Jordan Times.

Pediatrician Hassan Far'ean, who was said by hospital nurses to be part of the team, also declined comment referring the Jordan Times to Dr. Keilani.

In an interview published by the Jordan Times on Jan. 20, a member of the same medical team who asked not to be identified, said that four test-tube babies were expected to be born "within the next few months." He said the two sets of twin embryos were "developing well under close medical supervision," and that the two women were in "a very good condition." It was not immediately known who the other woman was.

In the January interview, the doctor said "the formation and development of the fetus was encouraging and going ahead as planned."

"To date," he said, "developments have been good and we expect the births to take place on

cratic and popular forces" to force Cairo to abandon its 1979 pact with Israel.

It also instructed the committee not to normalise relations with "the Egyptian regime" only after it abandoned the process begun by the U.S.-brokered Camp David accords in 1978 that led to the 1979 treaty.

Mr. Abdul Meguid said Monday's decision was conveyed to the PLO's main office in a Cairo suburb before the closure order took effect.

In another suburb, Fathy Arfat, Mr. Arfat's brother, who heads a major hospital operated by the PLO Red Crescent, said he had "heard vaguely about the PLO office closing down" but that he had not been informed.

"I have no information on the subject," he said. "We have not been notified of anything. I am at work here in my office and at the hospital."

Senior PLO representatives in Cairo were not available for comment on the Egyptian decision. They went to Tunis with Mr. Arfat following the PNC meeting in Algiers.

Shortly after Mr. Abdul Meguid spoke, the PLO's information office in downtown Cairo had red tape across its door, sealed with wax, and two Egyptian policemen sat outside. Telephone in several PLO offices went unanswered, AP said.

That was unacceptable to Egypt because it called for the Executive Committee to work with "Egypt's nationalist, demo-

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schedule." He did not give the date for the expected births.

If Mrs. Dababneh is one of the two women fertilised nine months ago, the delivery of the other two babies should be any day now since both women had the implantation operation nearly at the same time.

Invitro fertilisation and artificial insemination methods has been developing over the past decade with religious opposition declining over the years, giving more hope for fertile men and women.

The method is usually applied when a woman's fallopian tube is blocked, stopping the ovule from reaching the uterus to be fertilised by the man's sperm. The ovule is thus taken from the woman and fertilised by her husband's sperm in a special test tube before implanting the fertilised ovule in the woman's uterus.

The operation is legal in Jordan and is approved by the Kingdom's religious authorities — "as long as the ovule and the sperm come from the married couple," doctors said.

Similar operations have been successfully carried out in the last three years in Kuwait and Iraq.

Gemayel said seeking U.S. help to prevent Israeli attack on S. Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP) — President Amine Gemayel met U.S. Ambassador John Kelly on Monday seeking Washington's help to prevent an Israeli attack in South Lebanon in retaliation for raids by Palestinian and Iranian-backed commandos, an official source said.

"The president discussed with Mr. Kelly what Washington can do to save the south," the source said.

But Mr. Kelly told reporters after the one-hour meeting that he discussed a U.S. aid programme for Lebanon with Mr. Gemayel.

The envoy said that U.S. aid worth \$8.4 million was due to reach Lebanon in July.

Mr. Kelly did not refer to the situation in the flashpoint south in his statement.

The Lebanese source said Mr. Gemayel sought the meeting with Mr. Kelly "amid increased signs that a confrontation is imminent in the south" between the Israelis and fighters of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah (Party of God).

Iranian and Hezbollah leaders Sunday called for an escalation of attacks against Israel, heightening fears that the violence in South Lebanon will intensify.

Hezbollah spokesman Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah declared in Lebanon that Shi'ite fighters would "march to Jerusalem. Israel should realise that it is facing another era, the era of Imam Khomeini."

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted him as calling on Shi'ite fighters to "deal more fatal blows against the Zionists."

"Removing Israel from existence is a matter of existence for us. We are capable of massing thousands of fighters," Mr. Nasrallah said.

"Israel's threats and warnings do not frighten our people," he added, referring to leaflets dropped by Israeli warplanes in South Lebanon last week vowing "violent steps" if guerrilla attacks continued.

They spoke at rallies in the Shi'ite strongholds of east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, South Lebanon and south Beirut to eulogise 19 Hezbollah killed in a clash with Israeli soldiers and their

came personally to Egypt to thank Mr. Mubarak for his help in providing protection to PLO forces evacuating Lebanon and has been here several times since then.

Mr. Abdul Meguid's statement was uncommonly harsh.

He noted recent Egyptian efforts to bring the PLO into Middle East peace initiatives by working to improve its image with the United States and Israel.

Despite this, he said, "the Palestine National Council adopted a resolution dealing with the relationship between the PLO and Egypt in a hostile manner that disregards the sacrifices Egypt made in championing the Palestinian people and supporting them in all stages of their struggle."

"The only justification given for this reckless resolution, which was unwarranted and which transgressed on all the realities, was that it was to pay the price needed to satisfy some countries."

Although he did not say so, this was an obvious reference to Syria, which backs PLO hardliners.

In another apparent swipe at Syria, the statement said the PNC acted against Egypt but "closed its eyes and shut its ears to the forces that tried to illuminate the Palestinian people and... went to the point of carrying out physical liquidation and massacres."

Syria expelled Mr. Arfat in

Jordan and Tunisia discuss efforts for peace conference and bilateral ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Tunisia Monday opened meetings at the Foreign Ministry in Amman to discuss general Arab affairs, the Middle East question and bilateral relations.

The talks were conducted by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and his Tunisian counterpart Al Hadi Al Mabrouk, who arrived in Amman Sunday evening on a three-day official visit to Jordan.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the talks centred on current efforts being made to hold an international peace conference on the Middle East under United Nations auspices. The agency said both sides to the Amman meeting expressed satisfaction with the high level relations between Jordan and Tunisia in all fields and emphasised the need for more efforts to bolster these relations.

Both sides also called for more consultations, contacts and visits between the two countries at all levels and for promoting economic and trade cooperation and exchanging visits by tourist groups.

In an interview with Reuters, Mr. Mabrouk said the Palestinians had the right to take their own decisions and choose their own methods of struggle.

EC ministers review Mideast

LUXEMBOURG (R) — European Community (EC) foreign ministers began two days of wide-ranging talks on Monday devoted to trade relations with Japan, Middle East peace prospects, and Turkey's application to join the 12-nation trading group. Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans was to report to the meeting on a recent visit he made to the Middle East as current president of the EC Council of Ministers to promote an international peace conference for the region. In February, EC ministers backed the idea of such a conference, to be held under the United Nations' auspices. Mr. Tindemans' visit to Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia followed the community's unexpectedly warm response to the idea. Diplomats said the ministers were to discuss what effect the weekend meeting of the Palestine National Council, was likely to have on peace prospects.

He declined to comment directly on Egypt's decision to close all Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) offices in Cairo, but said the Palestinians knew their own interests best.

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Delegation reports successful outcome of Kuwait conference

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — A Jordanian delegation returned home Monday after attending a two-day conference in Kuwait on investment opportunities in the Kingdom and reported a successful outcome of the meeting.

The delegation, which was headed by Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Maushar and Minister of Finance Hama Odeh, had extensive discussions with Kuwaiti government officials as well as businessmen and outlined to them various projects in which they could invest in Jordan.

The conference was organised by the Ministry of Industry and Trade in cooperation with the

Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance, the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) and the Kuwaiti General Investments Corporation (KGIC).

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Maushar said Kuwaiti investors had expressed their willingness to invest in various commercial ventures and industrial and agricultural projects in Jordan. The minister said investors found the investment climate in Jordan as favourable in the light of the Kingdom's geographic location and its wide range of ties with many countries. In addition, said Dr. Maushar, the investors were encouraged by the incentives — such as tax and customs exemptions and government protection for local industries — offered by

(Continued on page 4)

Iraq reports beating back Iranians; Soviets call for U.N. intervention

BAHRAYN (Agencies) — Iraq said Monday its armed forces beat back an Iranian attack on an outpost in the northeastern front and forced the Iranians to flee with intense artillery fire.

Iraqi officials alleged that Mr. Barghouti, from Ramallah, was involved in activities in support of the Fatah faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

He is the 12th Palestinian to face expulsion since Israel adopted an "iron fist" policy against Palestinian nationalists in the occupied territories in August 1985. No expulsion date was announced.

In another development, the Israeli authorities have ordered that Talab Abu Dara, a resident of Balata refugee camp near Nablus, be held in "administrative detention" for three months.

Under regulations dating back to the British mandate in Palestine, Israeli authorities detain without trial any person regarded as "endangering security."

The Palestinian Council of Higher Education sharply condemned Israeli policies in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip at a news conference on Monday.

Israeli authorities closed Birzeit for four months earlier this month after student demonstrations.

Three Birzeit students have been killed by Israeli troops during protests there in the past month.

The council said another Palestinian university, Al Najah, had been closed by the Israelis for a total of 102 days during the academic year and Bethlehem University was closed for 39 teaching days.

The council sees these measures as aimed at eliminating these institutions and undermining their role as Palestinian national institutions that work for the benefit of Palestinians under occupation," a statement released at the press conference said.

"This determination was based on United States law that prohibits entry to any foreign national who assisted or otherwise participated in activities amounting to persecution during World War II," Eastland said.

TASS quoted Mr. Petrovsky as saying that a "draft resolution" should be considered at such a meeting. He did not say what the resolution should contain.

Mr. Petrovsky said the idea of Security Council action to end the almost seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

The Soviet Union supports the proposal by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on holding a meeting of the U.N. Security Council at foreign ministers' level to discuss the issues connected with ending the war.

The Soviet news agency TASS quoted Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky as saying.

Mr. Petrovsky, who has been on a tour of the Middle East, made his statement to a TASS correspondent in Baghdad, the news agency said.

The mission was decided at a meeting of Arab League ministers in Tunis last month.

Austria rejects U.S. move and recalls envoy

Life returns to normal in Beirut after strikes

BEIRUT (R) — Life returned to normal in Lebanon Monday after a three-day nationwide strike in protest at economic hardship, but factional disputes continued to cripple the "national unity" government.

Banks, shops, schools and businesses reopened and traffic clogged streets in Beirut, but the Lebanese army, angered at snipers who killed a corporal last week, kept shut a main road across the "green line" battlefield dividing the capital.

Antoine Bichara, head of the General Labour Federation which called the strike, has threatened new stoppages unless the government takes action to curb inflation and meet pay demands.

"We are headed for an indefinite escalation in the strike unless the state sympathises with the people after 12 years of civil war," he told federation members Sunday.

Mr. Bichara urged cabinet ministers and parliament to meet daily in emergency session to deal with an economic crisis marked by the near-collapse of the Lebanese pound, soaring prices, rising unemployment and a worsening recession.

The pound closed Monday at 118 to the dollar, down from 114.75 last Wednesday on the eve of the strike. The currency was worth 18 to the dollar at the beginning of 1986 and has lost 28 per cent of its international value so far this year.

The government appears largely paralysed by political rifts be-

tween its Falangist and opposition members, who are due to resume talks on the economy next Thursday, a week after their first meeting in seven months.

Sunni Muslim Prime Minister Rashid Karameh has urged the implementation of measures outlined at last week's session, but Falangist, led by Finance Minister Camille Chamoun, have insisted that official decisions can only be taken at a full cabinet session chaired by President Amin Gemayel.

The full cabinet last met in October 1985. Muslim ministers have refused to meet the Falangist president since he rejected a Syrian-backed peace pact for Lebanon in January 1986.

Although the strike was widely observed, there were no marches or demonstrations and few Lebanese seemed to believe it would be effective.

An open strike was needed to make those responsible for the situation really feel the impact. The three-day strike was just a vacation for workers," said Saeed, 41, a father of three.

"How can the strike achieve its aim when the state is bankrupt and its resources are in the hands of militias?" Samia, a 49-year-old housewife, asked.

Mr. Karameh said last week the state had collected only 200 mil-

lion pounds (\$1.6 million) in revenue in 1986, against budget projections of four billion pounds (\$33 million).

A banking source said the measures outlined by ministers last week — a return to state control of ports and other public utilities and the reopening of crossing points between Christian and mainly Muslim west Beirut — would help alleviate the crisis.

"But an effective solution lies in reconciliation among the conflicting parties (in the civil war)," the source said.

Syrian-Lebanese talks on ways to end the civil war and reconcile Falangist and opposition factions through political reforms have been stalled for several weeks.

Fundamental differences on Syria's role in Lebanon are at the root of sectarian wrangling.

Mr. Karameh said at the weekend that the presence of the Syrian army, now in control of west Beirut as well as much of east and north Lebanon, had "preserved the existence of Lebanon."

Mr. Chamoun, who is close to hardline Falangist militia leader Samir Geagea, said in reply: "It's the Syrian army's presence which is a danger for Lebanon's existence."

Despite the recriminations, Shi'ite Muslim parliament speaker Hussein Huseini, who convened the ministerial meeting, said Sunday night a date for resuming the dialogue between Damascus and representatives of Mr. Gemayel would be set this week, Beirut newspapers reported.

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lion pounds (\$1.6 million) in revenue in 1986, against budget projections of four billion pounds (\$33 million).

A banking source said the measures outlined by ministers last week — a return to state control of ports and other public utilities and the reopening of crossing points between Christian and mainly Muslim west Beirut — would help alleviate the crisis.

"But an effective solution lies in reconciliation among the conflicting parties (in the civil war)," the source said.

Syrian-Lebanese talks on ways to end the civil war and reconcile Falangist and opposition factions through political reforms have been stalled for several weeks.

Fundamental differences on Syria's role in Lebanon are at the root of sectarian wrangling.

Mr. Karameh said at the weekend that the presence of the Syrian army, now in control of west Beirut as well as much of east and north Lebanon, had "preserved the existence of Lebanon."

Mr. Chamoun, who is close to hardline Falangist militia leader Samir Geagea, said in reply: "It's the Syrian army's presence which is a danger for Lebanon's existence."

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Khayyat, Saudi officials discuss Haj arrangements

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Monday returned home after a several-day visit to Saudi Arabia where he and Saudi officials discussed bilateral relations in religious and pilgrimage (Haj) fields.

Dr. Khayyat said he and his Saudi counterpart discussed arrangements for the pilgrimage to Mecca for Jordanians and pilgrims from the occupied Arab territories. The arrangements, he said, will provide services and facilitate the pilgrimage by making available good transportation and comfortable accommodation

in pilgrimage areas.

He added that the ministry will soon issue regulations for the pilgrimage season after the ministry of Haj (pilgrimage) and Awqaf in Saudi Arabia draws up this year's regulations and procedures.

The minister added that he and Saudi officials discussed setting up a permanent camp in Mount Arafat for Jordanian pilgrims and a second camp in Mena.

Dr. Khayyat went on to say that he also discussed the possibility of allowing Egyptian pilgrims to perform the Haj to Mecca via Jordan.

AARRO decides to establish audit office, raise efficiency

AMMAN (Petra) — An executive committee of the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation (AARRO) held a meeting here Monday under the chairmanship of Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yousef Hamdan Al

Jaber, and decided on establishing an audit office to conduct work for the India-based AARRO.

The meeting also discussed measures aimed at raising the efficiency and performance of international offices.

Husseini fixes post office hours for month of Ramadan

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Communications Muhibeddine Husseini Monday issued a communique fixing the office hours for various post offices during the holy month of Ramadan. Mr. Husseini said that post offices with switch boards will continue to work around the clock, including Fridays and official holidays, while office hours at the Amman central post office will be from 6.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m., including

Fridays and official holidays during the fasting month of Ramadan.

The minister fixed the office hours for main post offices in the governorates, district centres and in the various areas of Amman from 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. throughout the week, excluding Fridays and official holidays when office hours will be from 8.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Cabinet forms committee to reclassify contractors

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Monday approved a recommendation by the Ministry of Public Works to form a committee for the reclassification of grade one contractors. The committee comprises the director of the government tenders department as chairman, the president of the Jordan Contractors Association (JCA) and a representative for each of the Jordan Engineers' Association, the Armed Forces, the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, the Central Bank of Jordan and two representatives for the Ministry of Public Works.

The Cabinet also approved the Jordanian Olympic committee recommendation that a special committee be formed and entrusted with reclassifying grade six contractors. The committee will be

Graduates face new economic challenges, CSC president says

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Ibrahim Izzeddin Monday said that Jordan has faced many challenges since the mid-seventies, and that they were brought about both by the development process and by the oil revolution. He said that the political, economic and social situations throughout the Arab World also contributed to creating those challenges. Jordan also contributed to creating those challenges. Jordan's response, he said, has been to increase enrollment in schools and universities and widen communications and contacts with the world.

The Cabinet also endorsed the Jordanian Olympic committee recommendation that a special committee be formed and entrusted with reclassifying grade six contractors. The committee will be

headed by vice president of the JCA and will group a representative from each of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs, the Ministry of Public Works, the Greater Amman Council and the engineers' association.

Also Monday the Cabinet endorsed a health cooperation agreement between Jordan and Sudan. The agreement, which will be signed within the next few days, aims at developing and bolstering existing cooperation between both countries in the health related affairs.

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Arab organisations, industries discuss joint economic action

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has opened its doors for joint Arab action and pan-Arab projects and is housing numerous Arab organisations and continues to host pan-Arab conferences in a bid to achieve greater inter-Arab cooperation and attain more progress and prosperity for the Arab World, Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan said here Monday.

The minister was addressing a two-day meeting organised by the Arab Organisation for Industrial Development (AOID) held to discuss means of promoting the work of pan-Arab companies.

He said that the AOID is currently involved in enlisting Arab countries' support for implementing joint industrial projects, and that this effort requires close coordination among Arab countries and between these countries and the AOID.

The AOID meeting in Amman coincides with a conference in Kuwait for promoting investments in Jordan and orienting Arab investors on opportunities available for them in the Kingdom, the minister continued. He said Jordan appreciates the AOID's decision to hold its meeting here and said that Jordan will offer all facilities for cooperation with Arab states.

The opening session was later addressed by Iraqi Minister of Industry Hatem Abdul Rashid, who also chairs the meetings. He said that the meetings are designed to arrive at a practical formula, enabling Arab countries to work together and make Arab industrial schemes achieve success.

Khatib highlights Jordan's role in working for peace

IRIBID (Petra) — Minister of Information Mohammad Al Khatib said that His Majesty King Hussein has focussed, in his contacts at the Arab and international levels, on reaching a just and durable solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict through an international peace conference. The conference would be attended by all parties concerned, and the five permanent member countries of the U.N. Security Council.

Speaking at the opening of a seminar Monday at Yarmouk

University involving students from the mass communication and journalism department and students from other faculties, Mr. Khatib stressed that Jordan, in its endeavour to achieve Arab unity, has been working towards mediating inter-Arab differences in order to achieve a unified and influential Arab stand.

The Jordanian media, Mr. Khatib said, has focussed on keeping in touch with Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories to support their steadfastness.

U.S. war college team looks into regional developments

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry Tayseer Touqan Monday received a visiting delegation from the U.S. National War College to review developments in the Palestine question and Jordan's position on finding a just, comprehensive and durable peace for the region. Mr. Touqan stressed Jordan's stand, calling for holding an international peace conference to be attended by all parties involved in the Middle East conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and the five permanent member states of the United Nations Security Council.

Mr. Touqan explained Jordan's stand on the Gulf war to the delegation and said that Jordan

supports Iraq in its war. He pointed out that Iraq has always announced its acceptance of a peaceful settlement to the war and has responded to all international efforts aimed at putting an end to this destructive conflict.

Mr. Touqan expressed hope that world countries would stop supplying Iran with arms and called for intensified international efforts to convince Iran to accept a peaceful solution to the war.

Earlier on Monday Army Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Fathi Abu Taleb received Rear Admiral John Addams, head of the U.S. National War College and reviewed military situation in the region.

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UAE minister tours agricultural stations, projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Marwan Al Hmoud Monday accompanied visiting UAE Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Sa'id Mohammad Ruqban on a tour to Hussein Agricultural Station in Baqaa, the Zarqa Basin Development Project and King Talal Dam.

In Baqaa, the minister was briefed on the activities of the National Centre for Research and Transfer of Technology, which is part of the Hussein Agricultural Station.

Mr. Ruqban then was briefed on the Zarqa Basin Development Project and its role in preventing soil erosion, preserving production capacity of arable land and the storing capacity of King Talal Dam. Mr. Ruqban also visited Al Faisali nursery in Jerash, where he was briefed about its role in agricultural development by providing farmers with fruit-bearing and forest trees.

On Sunday, the visiting minister toured the central Jordan Valley area and the Dead Sea. His tour included the Agricultural Products Marketing Centre, the Jordan Valley Authority centre, and the Department of Agriculture's office in the central Jordan Valley.

Accompanying the minister on his tours on Monday were Dr. Saleem Al Lawzi, Under Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture, and Director General of Forests Ghaleb Abu Orabi.

Provincial governors call for timely decentralisation

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in a three-day symposium on provincial governors and their role in development Monday sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussein expressing their gratitude for His Majesty's efforts in support of development in various economic, social and administrative fields.

The participants in the symposium, who are mainly governors and district officers, stressed the need to implement the new administrative system, whereby each province is to be divided into local administrative units, such as governorates and is to have legal status and independence. Such units will be headed by governors who will act as representatives of the executive power.

The symposium, which concluded here on Monday, recommended a number of measures

designed to cope with the recent changes brought about by the five-year development plan. The symposium called for work towards decentralisation at the provincial levels. This should be done, according to the symposium, by a specific schedule.

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The U.S. and the Gulf: Polishing up a tarnished image

By Fred Axelgard

THOSE who expected the Reagan administration to remain passive in the Middle East for its last two years have had a mild surprise. Word has spread of renewed U.S. interest in an international peace conference on the Middle East, and now the Reaganites have suddenly begun to focus on the Gulf. Stirred by the political outcry over the Iran arms scandal, Washington's diplomatic machinery (such as it is) has been cranked up to give an impression of fresh and effective concern about the Gulf.

There are six discreet steps which can be discerned in the new U.S. initiative toward the Gulf. It has been reported that the approach stems from Middle East policy meetings held within the administration in early February, but in fact lower level staff had already begun to abort possible "next steps" for the administration towards resuscitating the U.S. position in the area. Eventually this evolved into a broad, multi-faceted effort which combines military and diplomatic moves, and involves the administration in some sensitive domestic, bilateral, and multilateral politicking.

But behind it all, nagging questions linger. Will it work? Is it even supposed to work, in the sense of effecting a concrete change in the Gulf situation? The motive of diplomatic damage-control is transparently obvious. Also, judging from past experiences with this administration's regional initiatives — going back to President Reagan's Middle East peace proposal of September 1982 — one is compelled to ask: Is the initiative a serious commitment, backed by the sensitivities of both superpowers. Kuwait has now agreed to gain protection

objectives and plans for implementation? Or is it purely a cosmetic gesture by an administration that knows neither what it wants to accomplish in the Gulf nor how it might achieve it?

1. President Reagan's 25 February statement on the Iran-Iraq war was the first public point of departure on this initiative. Mr. Reagan denounced Iran for its intransigence in the Gulf war, for its efforts to subvert its neighbours through terrorism and intimidation." Iraq had pressed vigorously for a high level statement of this kind ever since the Iran arms scandal broke and welcomed it warmly. For Mr. Reagan, it amounted to a reversal of his earlier avowals that Iran had ceased acts of terrorism, a stand which was very much at the heart of his justification for the idea of arms sales to Iran. This reversal was not picked up by the White House press corps, who failed to use it when Mr. Reagan again defended his original justification of the arms sale at his 19 March press conference.

2. Dispatching U.S. naval forces to the Gulf has attracted more attention. U.S. ships sped toward the northern Gulf during Iran's worrisome advances in January, supposedly to reassure Kuwait which was then hosting an Islamic summit. In March, in response to signals from Kuwait and Iran's placement of "Silkworm" missiles near the Strait of Hormuz, the U.S. made a very public offer to Kuwait to provide naval escorts for its tankers in the Gulf. Kuwait has reportedly declined this offer, apparently after failing to arrive at arrangements which would meet the sensitivities of both superpowers. Kuwait

for its ships by transferring registration of some of its tankers to the USSR. Nevertheless, the Pentagon has decided to build up the naval presence in the area by stationing an aircraft carrier battle group permanently near the Gulf.

3. Weapons for Arab allies is Washington's third tactic for bolstering its credibility in the Gulf. Given Congress's relentless opposition to Arab arms sales in the very recent past, it is difficult to imagine that the White House would seriously rely on this manoeuvre to improve its relations in the Arab world. Nevertheless, proposals to sell arms to Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and other countries have gone forward, seemingly with intent. This may reflect how desperate are the administration's straits with its Arab allies, and perhaps a calculation that the Pollard spy case and the Iran arms scandal have caused the uninhibited pro-Israel political climate on Capitol Hill.

To date, Congress has not indulged in its usual strong, outspoken opposition to these proposals. Nevertheless, administration officials have been challenged in low-key but pointed ways on Capitol Hill. The inherent controversy has been accentuated by the fact that Mr. Reagan is proposing to sell the Arab anti-armour munitions made from depleted uranium, against which Israeli tanks have no effective defence. It is expected that an outright political row will eventually doom these arms sales or that they will be so emasculated by compromise that they will do little to restore Arab confidence toward Washington.

(The last three elements of the Reagan administration's new

Gulf initiative deal w/d the Iran-Iraq war and bilateral relations with Iraq.)

4. Operation Staunch. The U.S. campaign to block Western arms sales to Iran was the most effective tool America had brought to bear on the Gulf war — and almost certainly the most serious concrete casualty of the Iran arms scandal. A concerted diplomatic effort has been under way since the beginning of this year to "put starch back into starch." Thus far, the only available assessments suggest that U.S. diplomats' entreaties and urgings have been met with appreciative but knowing smiles from Western allies who will not quickly be corralled into an outright arms embargo against Iran.

5. A new U.N. Security Council resolution on the Gulf war has reportedly been an important priority for Iraq. The U.S. has been constructively and energetically engaged in prompting consultations among Security Council members and interested parties, dating back to the days of Iran's January offensive. Iraqi officials seem to entertain hopes of effective action emanating from this forum. Iraq and the U.S. have developed a relatively strong record of good diplomatic cooperation at the U.N., dating back to the resolution condemning the Israeli raid on Iraq's nuclear reactor in 1981. Nevertheless, if Iraq seriously expects its longstanding wish for a Security Council resolution calling for an end to the war and which incorporates sanctions for non-compliance, it is likely to be disappointed.

6. American concern about its relations with Iraq has surfaced in rumours that Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead, might make a late April visit to Baghdad. This has been discussed internally, although it has not been proposed to the public. The publication of the proposal in the *Wall Street Journal* may delay and perhaps eliminate the visit altogether. If Whitehead goes, it would be the highest ranking official visit to Iraq in nearly three decades. The proposal caused heartburn in some circles of the administration, where it was suggested that the visit would manifest a blatant U.S. "tilt" toward Iraq. Other observers expressed reservations that it would give the appearance of American policy lurching from one extreme to the other and thereby confirm to our friends in the region that "we really don't know what we're doing."

On a related matter, the administration has reportedly been asked by Iraq to provide C-130 transport aircraft and to grant permission for Baghdad to rent or use artillery radars which the U.S. has sold to Jordan. Press reports indicate that the administration has refused to allow these arrangements, and State Department sources confirm that there is no serious discussion about changing U.S. policy in this regard. Direct U.S. assistance to Iraq, in terms of the war effort, is therefore limited to provision of selective intelligence from spy satellites, outfitting Iranian military positions. Such data was being provided to Iraq before the Iran arms scandal broke. In the mood of bitter disappointment which followed, officials in Baghdad specifically charged that Iraq's loss of the Fao peninsula (and of thousands of Iraqi sol-

diers) in early 1983 was result of bad intelligence provided by the U.S. Although American officials in Washington and Baghdad have vigorously denied these accusations, it is difficult to see how U.S.-Iraqi relations could improve on the strength of the intelligence link alone.

As one examines the U.S.'s new Gulf initiative, as a whole or in its component parts, its outlook is not encouraging. It proceeds from a statement by Mr. Reagan which contains important contradictory elements that have not been resolved. It has been tainted by a streak of gun-bo-militarism which led the administration to ignore Kuwaiti sensitivities and publicise bilateral discussions about tanker escorts. Moreover, the effect of the initiative on America's Arab allies will likely be held hostage to the arms sale proposals now pending precariously before Congress. The attempt to resuscitate "operation starch" remains a very difficult prospect; and Iran's continuing military threats against Iraq suggest that a restriction of Western arms flows to Iran would do little to deter Tehran's war effort anyway. Finally, there are not real prospects that initiatives at the U.N. or bilaterally between Baghdad and Washington will have a lasting impact on the weakened U.S. diplomatic position in the Gulf.

One can only hope that behind the scenes, the Reagan administration has made more creative proposals and is pursuing them with more commitment than those which have been made public. Otherwise, passivity may have been preferable — Middle East, International, London.

Step backward

THE Egyptian government's decision yesterday to close down PLO offices in Cairo following the 18th Palestine National Council's "hostile" resolutions towards Egypt should come as no surprise to those observers who have been following events on the Palestinian front over the past few weeks. President Hosni Mubarak and his senior aides had flashed a number of warning lights to the PLO against adopting such a resolution on Egypt by the PNC, and what they did yesterday was no more than a logical and expected follow-up to these warnings. Things could have gone differently, of course, but only if PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat chose to go against the wishes of his more hardline Palestinian colleagues in the Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine.

In any way, the fact that Mr. Arafat opted for a tough-language resolution on Palestinian relations with Cairo means that to him good relations with the Egyptian government are not at the present as important as maintaining the new-found unity of his organisation and subsequently as improving the prospects of reconciliation with Syria and other Arab countries as well. We do not see this latest development in Palestinian-Egyptian relations as a positive contribution towards rebuilding Arab solidarity and serving the Palestinian cause. But it is equally futile and wrong to start apportioning blame on this or the other party for this newest failure in attempts to close Arab ranks.

Despite what happened yesterday we still have the hope that the step backwards in PLO-Egypt relations does not have the aura of finality and irreversibility to it — just as much as there is no finality and irreversibility in inter-Arab feuds and conflicts and alliances generally. Let tempers cool down first, and let us see how this new failure can be tackled and corrected along with the others before it that have plagued the Arab World.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: EC working actively

THE European Community (EC) did not suffice itself by issuing the Brussels declaration but followed it up with active work as represented in the visits of the Belgian foreign minister to the Middle East and talks with the leaders of Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The EC and the Belgian minister, Mr. Leo Tindemans, are carrying out endeavours for convening the international peace conference which is bound to bring an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The EC ministers who opened meetings in Brussels on Sunday will hear a report by the Belgian minister about the outcome of his trip to the Middle East and his views about problems that should be overcome for arriving at a formula leading to the conference. Mr. Tindemans said during his tour that the proposed conference should aim at implementing United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 to ensure a withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab territories. The participation of the U.N. Security Council members provides a guarantee for the implementation of the resolutions, and the participation of all other parties to the conflict is essential for the peace process. Above all the participation of the PLO in the coming conference is bound to ensure the success of the meeting and provide the best guarantee for the future.

Al Dustour: A turning point

THE Palestine National Council (PNC) concluded its meetings in Algiers after heated debates, and arrived at a formula for ending differences among the various factions and unifying their effort for the struggle against Israel. Although ideological considerations overrode political issues in the process of fusing this unity, the council has nonetheless reaffirmed the PLO's principles and the course of action in relation with other Arab states. The PNC has laid stress to the importance of the unique relations between Jordan and Palestine, and called for the convening of an international conference within an Arab concept to find a solution for the Middle East problem. The PNC also condemned Iran's occupation of Iraqi territory and appreciated Egypt's sacrifice and endeavours for serving the Arab Nation. The council also referred to the importance of maintaining strong relations with Syria and voiced total support for the Lebanese people in the face of Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon. Hence we can say that the PNC meeting in Algiers marked a turning point in the Palestinian action.

Sawt Al Shaab: Jordan's seriousness

JORDAN'S decision to pay extra allowances for teachers and education officials in the occupied West Bank will have a far-reaching effect. The decision means first of all that Jordan is committed to providing all necessary means that can bolster the steadfastness of the Arab people under Israeli rule in the face of Israel's repressive measures. Secondly, this decision means that Jordan is serious in its attempts to alleviate the sufferings of the Palestinian people in word and deed, and is determined to thwart enemy plans for evicting the indigenous population from their land. Thirdly, this decision reflects the Kingdom's full awareness of the dimensions of the Palestinian problem and Israel's aims and objectives, and its drive to impede all efforts for establishing peace. Jordan realises the great danger of Israel's expansionist designs, and is moving to thwart them and to enable the Arab citizens to resist enemy plans. The decision to help the education staff in the occupied territory is therefore essential to abort Israel's drive against Arab educational institutions and Arab school textbooks and staff who provide knowledge and enlightenment to the young generation, enabling it to resist Israel's occupation of Arab land.

Arias peace plan brings hope to Central America

There have been several efforts, notably the *Contadora Group's* initiative, started in 1983, to bring peace to the troubled regions of Central America. Robert Graham reports that new diplomatic moves emanating from Costa Rica are now winning real credibility.

LONDON — From an unpromising start the Central American peace plan put forward in February by President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica has begun to gain credibility.

Nicaragua has dropped its initial hostility and, after a series of postponements, the leaders of the five Central American countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua) will meet at the end of June in the Guatemalan city of Escuintla to discuss the proposals. Meanwhile the U.S. Senate, in a surprise move of near-unanimity, has voted 97-1 in favour of the Reagan Administration endorsing the Arias Plan.

"Right now the Arias Plan is the only diplomatic game in town," commented one of the region's senior diplomats. The Costa Rican President's proposal completely overshadowed the diplomatic efforts of the four-nation *Contadora Group* (Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela) which since January 1983 has been trying to hammer out a peace plan for Central American countries.

The key to the Arias plan is the concept of symmetry. The obligations are not exclusive to Nicaragua. While the Sandinista government would be obliged to amnesty its opponents and permit greater pluralism, the governments of El Salvador and Guatemala would be obliged to do the same.

Symmetry further means Cuban and Soviet aid to Nicaragua would be reduced by the same measure that the U.S. cut back in military support for its allies, and that external support for guerrilla movements would be dropped — whether the U.S.-backed anti-Sandinista rebels, the Contras, or the Cuban-backed FDR/FMLN in El Salvador.

President Arias is fully aware that he cannot afford to alienate the *Contadora Group*, which is backed by the major nations of Latin America. "I hope people have realised that the plan is not against any particular country; the only aim is to obtain peace for Central America," he says.

Recently the *Contadora Group*, meeting in Buenos Aires, gave the plan qualified approval, anxious not to sabotage it but keen not to be excluded from the peace process should it succeed.

The plan envisages the following:

1. General amnesty within 60 days of all five states signing the document, in those countries where armed conflict exists, and creation of national commissions for reconciliation.

2. Dialogue established with all internal opposition groups where armed conflict exists.

3. Democratisation introduced within six months, free of external influence, with special emphasis on liberty in the media within 60 days.

4. Elections to a new Central American parliament in 1988, preceded by free and fair elections on the media within 60 days.

5. Suspension of overt/covert foreign military aid to insurgent forces and the prevention of territory being used to destabilise another state.

6. Reduction in armaments and force levels to be negotiated within 60 days of signature of the document.

7. Follow-up and verification to be carried out by the United Nations and the Organisation of

NATO grapples with new twist to Euromissiles

By Richard Balmforth
Reuter

BRUSSELS — The latest twist in the "Euromissile" saga appears to have left NATO undecided whether it has scored a victory or registered a defeat.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz returned from Moscow last week to tell allies the Soviet Union was ready to abolish its shorter-range nuclear missiles to help towards a deal to rid Europe of medium-range systems.

On the face of it, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation appeared to have come close to winning the long-running poker game with the Soviets over the "Euromissile" question.

Since the Reykjavik superpower summit last October, the Europeans had insisted that any U.S.-Soviet agreement on medium-range (INF) missiles would have to take account of Moscow's big numerical advantage in shorter-range nuclear missiles such as the SS-22 and SS-23.

The New Soviet proposal appeared to be a major concession, ironing out the last hitch to a medium-range (INF) agreement that would enable West European governments to rid themselves of the "Euromissile" curse that has dogged them throughout the 1980s.

But nothing is quite that simple in NATO, an alliance that joins 16 nations sharing common ideals but often holding divergent views on East-West security issues for reasons of history, geography or simple political expediency.

There was no euphoria. West European foreign ministers returned to

their national capitals in moods varying from optimism to deep uncertainty over just where the new Soviet proposal left them.

For most Europeans, it was yet another uncomfortable twist in an issue that has had them on the hook since 1979 when the Western alliance decided to deploy U.S. cruise and Pershing 2 missiles to force the Soviets to withdraw their SS-20s.

Buying time, the Western alliance last week opted cautiously to consider the security implications of the new Soviet offer. The nations are now working on a joint response.

All the same, the feeling at NATO headquarters these days is that the process set in train by the summit in Reykjavik is unstoppable and that the alliance has reached something approaching a cross-roads.

"These are momentous times. For all we know we might be heading into the 1950s to the pre-ballistic missile era when all we had were aircraft carrying nuclear bombs," said one alliance diplomat.

There are military and doctrinal reasons, rather than political ones, why Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's shorter-range missile offer poses a dilemma for NATO.

Having stressed for so long the vital necessity of removing the imbalance of Soviet shorter-range missiles — those with a range of between 500-1,000 kilometres — NATO may find it a difficult offer to refuse.

In that class of weapon, NATO says it has only 72 West German Pershing 1-A missiles to set against the vastly more numerous

Soviet systems whose warheads, Shultz said last week, "were up in the multi-hundreds."

Until now, NATO has backed the U.S. position reserving the right to match existing Soviet levels of these weapons, while conceding privately that deployment of new shorter-range systems would, politically, difficult to push through.

But for the NATO strategists and military the problem is more fundamental. Removing another category of weapons, they argue, would pick away further at the alliance's doctrine of "flexible response."

This strategy envisages an ascending ladder of responses to Warsaw Pact nuclear artillery up to the doomsday exchange of inter-continental missiles between the superpowers.

At heart, most NATO military believe this strategy requires maintaining some nuclear missiles of all categories, including the U.S. medium-range cruise and Pershing 2 which would be scrapped under the INF "zero option" agreed in principle by the superpowers.

A straightforward "yes" from NATO to Gorbachev's offer would, as Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek said, remove two rungs from the ladder at a stroke.

Some NATO countries are more anxious than others. West German Defence Minister Manfred Woerner, whose country would be in the front-line of a missile exchange, spoke out strongly last Sunday against breaking out of NATO's ability to "react rung by rung."

"NATO prefers moves step by step, digesting and assimilating proposals and pausing for thought along the way," said one diplomat.

"It does not like heading into the unknown and it particularly does not like being stampeded into decisions by Mr. Gorbachev," the diplomat said.

Arafat that he would continue his efforts to maintain close relations with Egypt.

The semi-official newspaper *Al Ahram* said Mr. Arafat made the pledge in his first comment on PNC resolutions issued early Sunday in Algiers.

In his comment, published in *Al Ahram's* Monday, early edition, Mr. Arafat said "we will embark on promoting the Egyptian-Palestinian relations for the sake of joint Arab interests."

"Once more reaffirm that there will be no tampering with our strategic relations with Egypt," Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying.

"Egypt is a sincere supporter of the Palestinians and we will never permit anything to affect our relations with her," Mr. Arafat pledged.

Kuwait talks were successful

(Continued from page 1)
Ministry of Finance official Sa'id Al Hamami.

A joint communique issued at the end of the meeting said that the committee would "follow up" the investment projects in Jordan and coordinate contacts among representatives of various sectors in the two countries."

"We found a good response from Kuwait to (proposals for) investment in Jordan, for taking part in projects which would be beneficial both sides," Dr. Moasher was quoted as saying in a Reuter dispatch from Kuwait.

Beekeeping priest hopes to cure world's ills with honey

By Irena Czakierska
Reuter

KAMIANNA, Poland — A mountainside village in southern Poland, fringed by forests where bears still roam and eagles nest in summer, could soon become the world's first apitherapy centre, using natural remedies based on bees.

It's just one of the schemes of Father Henryk Ostach, who came to Kamianna more than 20 years ago and transformed the near-deserted hamlet into a thriving community modelled on the beehives which are his passion.

"There is so much we can learn from the way bees organise their lives," Ostach said. "They're a model family — diligent, efficient, they love order, have great respect for their queen and are prepared to defend her even until death."

On a grassy slope behind a picturesque wooden church, Ostach has collected hives from all over Poland, many of them old, intricately carved and brightly painted in folkloric forms of animals, cottages, windmills and peasant figures.

They are still working, and several thousand visitors come here each year to buy the local honey, which is delicately flavoured with lime tree blossoms, and said to be the best produced in Poland.

"Bees are much loved in Poland and the tradition goes back a long way," Ostach told Reuters in a recent interview. Sitting in his parish study, surrounded by natural history books in several languages, he said beekeepers here even have a patron saint — Ambrosius.

In the ancient chronicles of the amber merchants who plied the routes from the Baltic shores to Rome, Poland was described as "a land flowing with honey," full of fresh air and beautiful forests," he said.

Now, while vast tracts of the country are poisoned by industrial pollution, Kamianna is one of the last unspoiled areas with forests unharmed by acid rain and mountain springs still crystal clear.

The healing properties of honey and other substances produced by bees, together with the clear, local air, could be the answer to all sorts of illnesses including respiratory complaints, eye problems and skin diseases, Ostach believes.

"Bees are the great hope of sick people," he said, producing a tome of evidence compiled by the recent fifth world symposium on apitherapy, and adding that people were increasingly turning towards natural remedies instead of modern chemical drugs.

In apitherapy, bee products including honey, wax and a sterile substance called propolis, which bees make to protect their hive, a day."

'Kids bank': A new financial learning tool

By Thomas Witom
Reuter

CHICAGO — Plans for a new kind of financial institution, a bank for children, are drawing interest even though they are still largely on the drawing board.

The Colorado Banking Commission recently approved a charter for the Young American Bank in Denver.

Veteran banker Roger Knight, who will serve as its president, said the goal is to have the new bank in operation by the time school starts next autumn.

"It's a unique concept, offering young people a range of financial services such as chequing and savings accounts, credit cards, business loans and certificates of deposit," Knight told Reuters in a telephone interview from Denver.

The Colorado Council on Economic Education will play an active role in the kids bank, and the American Bankers Association and Colorado Bankers Association have expressed their support as well, said Knight, who expects similar institutions to sprout up in other states.

Under-age patrons who want to borrow from the bank will need their parents or guardians to co-sign the notes. To make cheque cashing easier, the bank will issue photo identification cards.

Last August, a sceptical Colorado Banking Commission turned thumbs down when the idea was first proposed, questioning the bank's ability to stay in business.

But Daniels convinced commissioners that the enterprise would be viable and won a reversal.

Lucey said the limit on amounts young patrons might borrow or write cheques against will rise as they "prove" themselves. Cheque limits, for instance, might start at \$10 and then rise to \$100.

Funding row puts EEC research at risk

Britain seems to be losing out on a project to help European companies catch up with the U.S. in the technology race. William Dawkins reports on the U.K.'s delay in joining an important project.

BRUSSELS — Driving in to Brussels on the motorway from Ostend, you will notice near the centre of town an office block bearing on its roof a conspicuous illuminated sign.

It is just before the turning for the European Commission and the sign picks out in blue lights: "ITT Research. There's no future without it." It is a message with an especially ironic meaning at a time when Britain stands isolated as the only EEC member state to refuse to back a controversial Ecu6.48 billion (\$7.3 billion) joint Community programme for research over the next five years.

The project, designed among other things to help European companies catch up in the technology race with U.S. counterparts such as ITT, has been much dimmed down from the Commission's Ecu7.735 billion proposal, itself a reduction from the original Ecu10.3 billion plan.

And if that sounds fanciful, it should be remembered that when the priest, now a sprightly 62, first arrived in Kamianna, only a handful of dilapidated houses stood there and, he said, he slept on the ground with only a raincoat for a blanket.

Now there is a road which he helped build, the houses have running water and electricity, gas is on the way, and a retirement home for priests is almost finished.

Since he took up his hobby 35 years ago when he found his pastoral duties in his first parish included tending a flock of bees, the priest has become such an authority on the subject that he now heads the Polish Beekeepers' Association.

One of his most interesting observations was reported in the Polish press earlier this year. While the rest of the country knew nothing of what had happened for several days after the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl last spring, Ostach's bees headed straight back to their hives and stayed there for eight days.

"We couldn't understand why. It was a beautiful, sunny day and there were lots of fresh blossoms out," Ostach said.

Many of Poland's 200,000 beekeepers reported similar stories and it was only later that they realised the bees had sensed radioactivity passing over the country from the neighbouring Soviet Union.

"Bees are a natural Geiger counter," the priest concluded.

As head of the Beekeepers' Association, Ostach is now preparing for an international apiculturists' congress in Warsaw in July, to be attended by 5,000 enthusiasts from more than 70 nations, including Israel and South Africa, with which Poland has either limited or no diplomatic ties.

"He's indefatigable," said Father Michal Grabowski, who has been drafted in to help perform religious duties in Kamianna's 156-strong community as Ostach's activities send him across Poland and abroad, "but he always manages prayers twice a day."

Roam around everywhere

Such differences of opinion are common in India, where rhesus monkeys freely roam both countryside and town.

Even though the monkeys sometimes pilfer papers from offices, raid refrigerators, and ruin farm crops, few Indians would consider harming them.

Concern for rhesus monkeys seems just and wise, for the human race owes the rhesus a profound debt of gratitude, most

scientists would agree.

"For all its contributions to medicine, the animal deserves the Nobel Prize," says Charles Southwick, a University of Colorado biologist who has spent years in India studying the monkeys.

As research animals, rhesus monkeys have prevented thousands of human tragedies, including birth defects, polio, and premature heart disease.

Tests involving the rhesus led to development of a reliable and safe polio vaccine in 1953. The thalidomide catastrophe that struck children in Europe in 1961 was averted in the United States when rhesus research showed that the tranquiliser caused birth defects.

In hematology, the primates saved lives by showing the way to treat Rh problems in newborn babies. The protein known as the Rh factor in some red blood cells gets its designation from the rhesus.

Renowned for a lot more than their contributions to science, monkeys have long played an important role in the culture and religion of India and much of Asia. In ancient Hindu texts, Hanuman, the monkey god, and his hosts are associated with the triumph of good over evil. So

EEC research and technology proposals 1987-91

Information and telecommunication

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Industrial

Quality of life

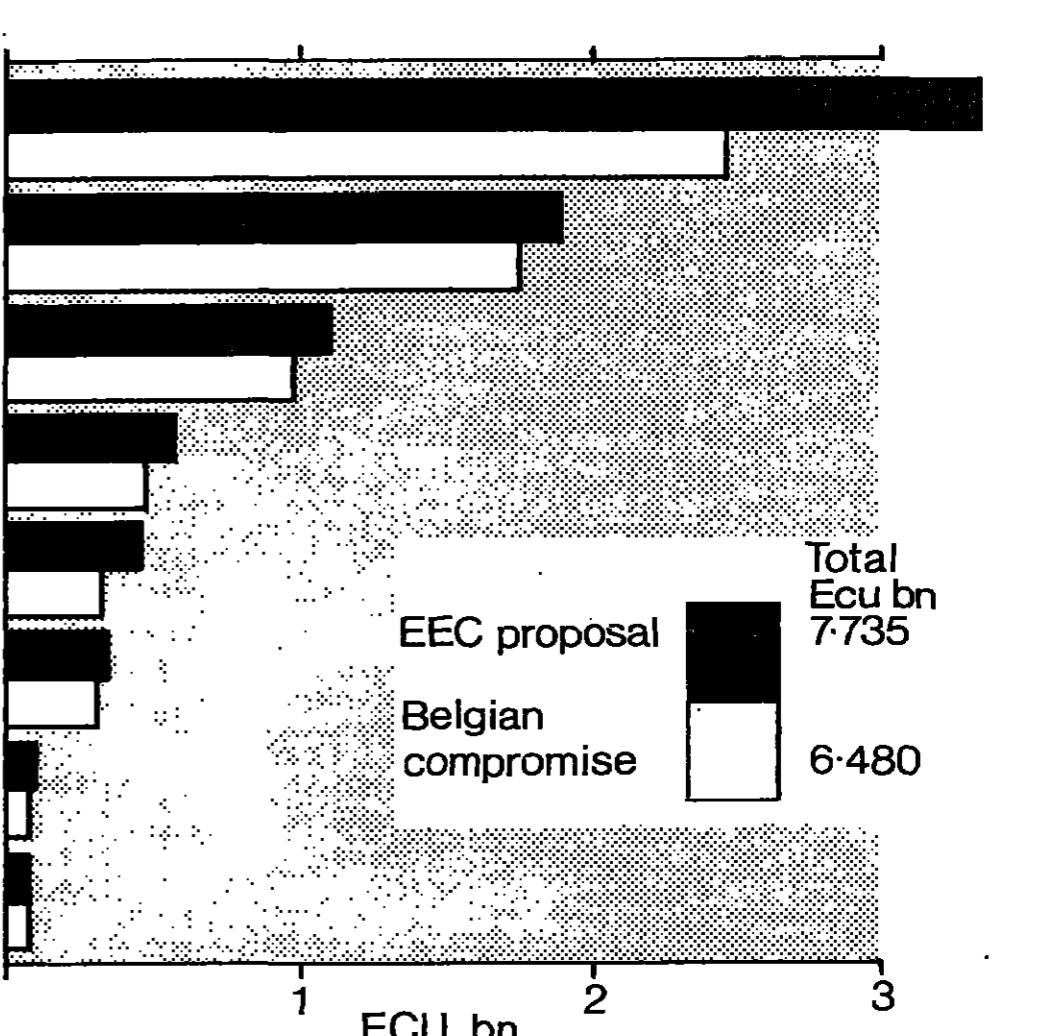
Science co-operation

Biology and agriculture

Development aid

Marine science

Source : EEC



holding out the ridiculous prospect of a new EEC-backed product emerging on the market just as demand starts to shift towards the next generation of components.

One possible example is application specific integrated circuits (ASICs), a new kind of customised chip planned for examination in Esprit's second phase where, says one technology official: "We are not yet too late.

But the problem of getting started in the race at the right time is getting more difficult."

The same risk of getting out of step with the market hangs over the Race study into broad-band communications, which would combine voice, data, video and graphics on to a single line. This involves 500 scientists from 30 EEC companies who finished preliminary work on defining

common standards at the end of last year and are now awaiting Ecu50 million under the Belgian offer to continue.

"One is not talking about broad-band communications being of importance until the mid-1990s," admits Mr. Mel Price, vice chairman of GEC Telecoms. "But you cannot lose the first year of a big research programme like this without feel-

ing the effects later on. If you delay a year, someone else will pre-empt you — and the window for this particular opportunity is not infinitely wide."

Mr. Price has not yet started to band his own research teams, which were expecting a delay in any event, but he gives a warning: "You cannot keep them together for too long once they lose hope" — Financial Times feature.

Rhesus monkeys — boon to humanity — vex, rob and amuse Indian villagers

By Donald J. Frederick
National Geographic

TIGHRI, India — people and rhesus monkeys usually get along fine in India, but, occasionally, things get out of hand.

"My mother-in-law was bitten by two monkeys and died from the bites," says Kamala Ramakar, who lives in this village just outside Delhi. "It's outrageous." They later came back and stole the laundry from my clothesline."

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Rhesus monkeys freely roam both city and countryside in many Asian countries (Photo by Thomas L. Rich — National Geographic)

people often give bananas to monkeys as a goodwill gesture.

Handing out bananas

A field near Delhi comes alive with monkeys when Mehech Kumar, who works in a nearby

cassette factory, hops out of his truck to distribute about 300 bananas. "My boss sent me," he explains. "Business is good, and he has a lot of faith in the monkeys."

Despite this relatively benign

"They're thieves," says Surah Prakas, who runs a small food stand. "They steal my vegetable patties."

An estimated 3,500 monkeys live in the old section of the city, says Rajasthani University zoology professor Reena Mathur, who has been studying the monkeys. "Because of their increasing numbers, they are losing their sacred image. More and more people now regard them as pests."

Besides the day-to-day monkey business, there's also a health hazard. "Monkey bites send people to the hospital every week," says Ajay Lobo, a research scholar who is helping with the study.

Monkeys have set up their own visiting hours at a hospital in downtown Delhi. "I saw this big monkey in a corridor," a startled visitor recalls. "An orderly shouted to a couple of alarmed patients, 'Carry on, just walk around him. He's here all the time.'"

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Evert upsets Navratilova in their 71st tennis match

HOUSTON, Texas (R) — Chris Evert defeated top-ranked Martina Navratilova 3-6, 6-1, 7-6, (7-4), in their 71st career meeting to win the \$150,000 Houston Women's Tennis Tournament.

"I'm thrilled that I won," said the fourth-ranked Evert, who last beat Navratilova in the 1986 French Open. The win marked only the fifth time Evert has defeated Navratilova since 1982.

Navratilova said she was not overly concerned about not having won a tournament since last November.

"My confidence is not where I'd like it to be," she said. "I need to brainwash myself by winning a tournament, but I won't get worried unless I keep losing."

Navratilova, who beat Evert for the first time in the Houston final of 1976, holds a 37-34 edge in their rivalry, which dates back to 1973. She won their last meeting in August 1986 at the Los Angeles Tournament.

Top seeded Navratilova broke

Evert in the first game of the match on a double-fault to take a 2-0 lead. Evert, seeded third, saved a break point in the fifth game, but Navratilova broke Evert with a forehand passing shot in the seventh game for 5-2.

The 32-year-old Evert broke Navratilova in the next game with a backhand lob for 3-5, but lost her serve and the set in the ninth game on three passing shots by Navratilova.

Evert dropped her serve only once and broke the 30-year-old Navratilova four times to win the second set. Navratilova struggled with her backhand, committing six unforced errors.

Navratilova achieved the first service break in the ninth game of the third set and served for the match at 5-4. Evert broke back in

the 10th game with a drop volley winner, and each player held their serve to force a tiebreak.

Evert broke through at 3-3 in the tiebreak with a forehand lob that sailed out of Navratilova's reach and went up 5-3 on another backhand error by Navratilova.

Navratilova saved one match point with a topspin backhand passing shot, but Evert closed out the tiebreak 7-4 with a drop shot winner that caught Navratilova moving the wrong way.

"It's pretty disappointing losing a match that you are two points away from winning," said Navratilova, who collected \$13,800 as runner-up.

Evert, who won \$30,500, said the number of their meetings has not stalled the quality of she and Navratilova's game.

"We know each other's games so well," she said. "But it's still unbelievable the matches we've had on clay... they're real emotional matches. It's always high quality tennis."

Lewis makes comeback in highjump event

Dahiyat reviews progress of sports complex in Zarqa

ZARQA (Petra) — Minister of Youth 'Eid Dahiyat Sunday visited Zarqa Governorate and met with Zarqa Governor Eid Qatarnah to discuss issues related to the sports city project in the governorate and means of supporting the local sport and youth movement.

The minister also called on sport and youth clubs to offer the necessary services to the local community and to work towards developing and improving sports activities.

Dr. Dahiyat added that his ministry is currently making contacts to set up a special school at Al Hussein Sports City to train and educate promising students in the various sports and games to provide local clubs and unions with qualified staff.

The minister also visited a number of sports centres and clubs for the handicapped in the governorate and examined their needs and problems.

signs for setting up sports complexes and installations at the cost of JD 1.5 million in Zarqa Governorate.

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European league roundup

Maradona, Pfaff display their talents

LONDON (R) — Diego Maradona, scorer of sublime goals, and goalkeeper Jean-Marie Pfaff, the master of the reflex save, gave towering performances at the weekend as their clubs stayed top of their respective leagues.

In Italy Maradona thrilled a crowd of 82,468 with the second goal, which he dedicated to his new-born daughter, in Napoli's 2-1 home win over AC Milan. The victory preserved its two-point lead over Internazionale, who beat Fiorentina 1-0 at home.

Pfaff, who played a leading role in Belgium's unexpected run to the 1986 World Cup semifinals where two goals by Maradona killed its title ambitions, saved a penalty as Bayern Munich beat

Bochum 2-1.

The result left Bayern still four points ahead of Hamburg SV, 2-1 winner over Bayer Uerdingen, and meant the Bavarian team has now gone 22 away games without defeat in the West German League.

"Maradona's magic evaporates the fear," was how La Gazzetta

and sick midfielder Michael Rummenigge, were soon in trouble in Bochum when Uwe Leifeld shot the home side into a 15th minute lead.

Andreas Breitner struck back two minutes later and after Pfaff saved Josef Nehl's penalty on the hour, Lothar Matthaeus scored to give Bayern both points.

Borussia Moenchengladbach, so unimpressive in its home defeat to Dundee United in the UEFA Cup last Wednesday, bounced back with a 7-2 rout of Waldhof Mannheim. Midfielder Uwe Rahn, largely inconspicuous against Dundee, scored four and laid on another.

Benfica, at the top of the Portuguese League, dropped a point in a disappointing 0-0 draw at Academica, allowing European Cup finalists Porto to cut its lead to four points with a 2-1 win over Benfica.

There was no league action Sunday in Spain ahead of the national team's European Championship match in Romania on Wednesday.

American Louganis wins 3-metre springboard diving

AMERSFOORT, Netherlands (AP) — American diver Greg Louganis won the men's three-metre springboard event in the Fina World Cup diving competition, with Min Gao of China winning the women's three-metre event.

Among the men, Tan Liangde of China finished second, and American Kent Ferguson and Li Deliang of China third and fourth respectively.

Soviet competitor Irina Lashko finished second among the women, with Brita Baldus of East Germany in third and Marina Babkova, also of the Soviet Union, in fourth position.

Soviet gymnasts sweep U.S. team

DENVER (AP) — Unheralded Valery Lyukin won the men's all-around title as the Soviet Union swept the team competition awards against a USA squad in the McDonald's Gymnastics Challenge.

Lyukin recorded a pair of perfect 10s during the weekend meet.

The Swedes put up a stiff resistance against the Soviet team, which is targeting an unprecedented 21st world title.

Anders Carlsson put the Scandinavians ahead at 5:36 of the first period on a close-range powerplay goal.

Sergej Starikov tied the score for the Soviets at 11:56 of the same period, and Vladimir Krutov put them 2-1 ahead at only 46 seconds into the middle session.

Carlsson's second goal again tied the score at 9:03 of the second period, but Sergei Svetlov netted for the Soviets at 14:18 of the session for a 3-2 lead.

Soviet coach Viktor Tikhonov accused Canadian referee Charles Banfield of "doing everything in his power" to help the Swedes score at least a tie against his team.

going through a window. I expect a dogfight down there (in game 3 at Landover, Maryland)."

Malone said he was embarrassed by the defeat.

"When they come to Washington, we should try to run up 200 on them," Malone said. "But I don't think they rubbed it in. I would have done the same thing."

In other playoff games Sunday, Boston defeated Chicago 105-96, Philadelphia beat Milwaukee 125-122 in overtime, Portland tripped Houston 111-98 and Atlanta edged Indiana 94-93.

The Celtics, Hawks and Pistons lead their series 2-0, while Philadelphia-Milwaukee and Portland-Houston are tied 1-1.

suits for some time now."

Arkaev said all the gymnasts who competed here "have real potential to be on our Olympic team next year."

"I wasn't really surprised," said Lyukin of his all-around title.

"I wanted to win."

Lyukin has had limited international experience. He placed fourth in the all-around and first in the vault at the Goodwill Games last year.

Facing the formidable Korolev, the only gymnast ever to have won two all-around titles in the world championships, Lyukin never flinched. He took the lead after the second of six events — earning a 10 in the pommel horse.

He tied Korolev for first place in the next event, the still rings, and then finished either ahead of or tied with the champion in the remaining events. Lyukin capped his performance with another 10 in the horizontal bar.

Lyukin finished with 59.70 points, followed by Korolev with 59.50 and another Soviet gymnast, Valentin Mogilny, at 58.100.

The Soviets, dominating every event, easily clinched the team title with 295.70 points to 289.85 for the Americans.

Ballesteros gets top seed, tough draw

CHIEPSTOW, Wales (AP) — Seve Ballesteros of Spain was given the top seed and a tough draw Monday for the Epsom Grand Prix of Europe match-play golf tournament.

Ballesteros could face at least five veterans of Europe's Ryder Cup teams in his half of the field in the £250,000 (\$400,000) tournament at the St. Pierre golf course May 7-10.

Bernhard Langer of West Germany heads the other half of the draw, after finishing second on the 1986 European PGA money-winning list. Langer was given a special spot in the field despite playing too few European tournaments last season to automatically qualify.

The defending champion, Ove Selleberg of Sweden, was not given a seed. The seedings were determined on last season's final money-winning list, where Selleberg finished out of the top eight.

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Cinema RAGHADAN

WILDCATS

LOVE UNTIL SEPTEMBER

WET GOLD

SUDDEN DEATH

STRIKE COMMANDO

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Performances 3:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Performances 7:15, 9:00, 10:30

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Monday.	
One Sterling	1.6690/6700
One U.S. dollar	1.3400/10
1.7760/70	U.S. dollar ..
2.0030/40	Canadian dollar ..
1.4490/4500	West German marks ..
36.88/91	Dutch guilders ..
5.9450/9500	Swiss francs ..
1272/1273	Belgian francs ..
137.80/90	French francs ..
6.2150/2200	Italian lira ..
6.6275/6325	Japanese yen ..
6.7075/7125	Swedish crown ..
One ounce of gold	473.50/474.50
U.S. dollars ..	Norwegian crowns ..
	Danish crowns ..
	U.S. dollars ..

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equity prices in late trading were further dented by an early 37-point fall on Wall Street. This followed the Dow Jones Industrial average's 46-point decline on Friday, which hit the London market Monday morning.

Dealers said Wall Street's fall reflected continuing concern over the weakness of the dollar, generating inflation and interest rate concerns. Major dollar earning companies featured among the largest declines, with Jaguar 20p off at 564, Unilever 38p lower at 2,625 and Glaxo 39p down at 1,400. Trading volumes remained relatively light, however, underlining the lack of institutional involvement.

At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was 17.3 off at 1,984.5, after touching 1,975.8 at Wall Street's close.

A record fall on the Tokyo stock exchange further clouded sentiment but dealers pointed out that the London market could expect to benefit, in relative terms, from declines in the Japanese and U.S. stock markets given the current underlying bullish U.K. fundamentals.

Sterling continued firmer, helped by falls in the U.S. currency and news the latest opinion poll showed the ruling Conservative Party holding an 11-point lead. The pound was two basis points higher at a trade weighted 72.7 at 1400 GMT.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Now you can go full speed toward the various outlets that you desire both where your usual Sunday pursuits are concerned and where pleasures and romantic interests are involved.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You can improve relations with others very easily. Put yourself in their shoes in order to understand their position better.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Quiet activity is your best mode of procedure now, so get busy early and gain your aims easily. Show more affection.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You have every chance to contact good friends and gain their cooperation for your ambitions. A good day to get shopping done.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) If you want to accomplish something in the outside world, wear a smile. Try to please your mate more.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Make new contacts and cultivate them for more rapport in the future. Avoid one who has an eye on your assets.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You get fine ideas as to how to have more rapport with your mate. Your intuition tells you how to deal with one in business.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) See those clever friends who are inclined to push you into doing things that are advantageous to you. Avoid a tricky individual.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) If you use a different approach at whatever tasks you get into, you can soon finish them. Take it easy tonight.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A good day to be with those you are most fond of and who are congenial and fun to be with. Get your appearance at its best.

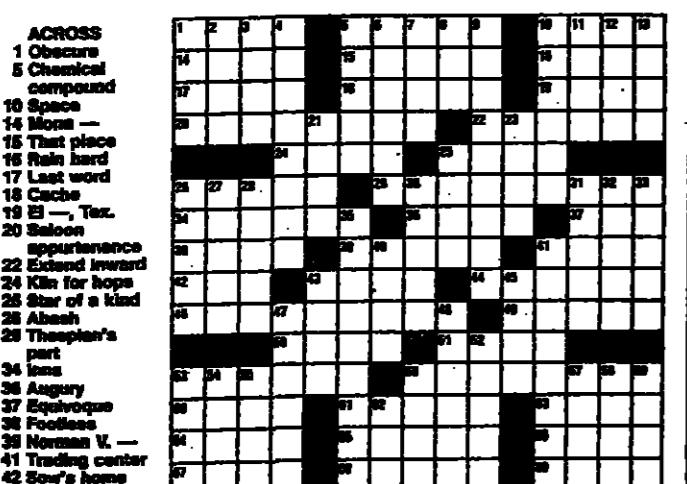
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Good day for having a delightful time at home with kin and others. Involve friends who are charming.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get in touch with persons whom you like but have not seen in some time. Then get out and visit people.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Make your home more charming by adding art objects, etc. Handle small repairs yourself.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be one who will like everyone he or she meets, but is not apt to make friends fast since the interests are many and varied. One who will be very active and do much traveling and reading.

THE Daily Crossword



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

9 Charged at the praser	10 Swoop	11 Gather	12 Otherwise	13 Like — or	14 Socks	15 Tires	16 Tires	17 Last word	18 Cache	19 El —, Tax.	20 Station	21 Appearance	22 Eased inward	23 Kite for hope	24 Star of a kind	25 Alab.	26 Theophr.	27 Star	28 Aesop	29 Equivoc.	30 Foolish	31 Norman V. —	32 Trading center	33 Tires	34 Tires	35 Land chbr.	36 More costly	37 Alpine flower	38 Solopeter Br.	39 Star	40 Display	41 Consciously	42 On-site aids	43 Tender	44 More costly	45 Alpine flower	46 Solopeter Br.	47 Star	48 Star	49 Star	50 Star	51 Star	52 Star	53 Star	54 Star	55 Star	56 Star	57 Star	58 Star	59 Star	60 Star	61 Star	62 Star	63 Star	64 Star	65 Star	66 Star	67 Star	68 Star	69 Star	70 Star	71 Star	72 Star	73 Star	74 Star	75 Star	76 Star	77 Star	78 Star	79 Star	80 Star	81 Star	82 Star	83 Star	84 Star	85 Star	86 Star	87 Star	88 Star	89 Star	90 Star	91 Star	92 Star	93 Star	94 Star	95 Star	96 Star	97 Star	98 Star	99 Star	100 Star
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1 Obscure	2 Chemical compound	3 Space	4 Moon —	5 Star	6 Star	7 Star	8 Star	9 Star	10 Star	11 Star	12 Star	13 Star	14 Star	15 Star	16 Star	17 Star	18 Star	19 Star	20 Star	21 Star	22 Star	23 Star	24 Star	25 Star	26 Star	27 Star	28 Star	29 Star	30 Star	31 Star	32 Star	33 Star	34 Star	35 Star	36 Star	37 Star	38 Star	39 Star	40 Star	41 Star	42 Star	43 Star	44 Star	45 Star	46 Star	47 Star	48 Star	49 Star	50 Star	51 Star	52 Star	53 Star	54 Star	55 Star	56 Star	57 Star	58 Star	59 Star	60 Star	61 Star	62 Star	63 Star	64 Star	65 Star	66 Star	67 Star	68 Star	69 Star	70 Star	71 Star	72 Star	73 Star	74 Star	75 Star	76 Star	77 Star	78 Star	79 Star	80 Star	81 Star	82 Star	83 Star	84 Star	85 Star	86 Star	87 Star	88 Star	89 Star	90 Star	91 Star	92 Star	93 Star	94 Star	95 Star	96 Star	97 Star	98 Star	99 Star	100 Star
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Soviets reportedly to develop South Yemen's oilfields

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — The Soviet Technoexport Company plans to develop three oilfields in Marxist-ruled South Yemen's Shabwa province and make a feasibility study of building a pipeline to the country's only refinery in Aden, an oil weekly reported Monday.

The widely respected Middle East Economic Survey (MEES), published in Nicosia, said the Soviets, who made commercial strikes in the region 425 kilometres northeast of Aden last year, are now carrying out further exploration work to determine the extent of the finds.

The weekly said the Soviets were expected to drill at least 11 exploration wells this year in the Iyad Est., Iyad West and Amaq fields.

These lie 200 kilometres east of the Alf field in neighbouring North Yemen discovered by the U.S. Hunt Oil Co. in 1984, the first oil strike in that country.

The survey said the Soviets will also study the possibility of building an export pipeline that would also be connected to the Aden refinery.

The weekly said the Soviets began trucking the light crude from Shabwa to the refinery April 15. It was not known what quantity of oil was involved, but

S. Arabia boosts oil output

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Saudi Arabia's oil production has increased this month by more than one million barrels a day to slightly above its OPEC quota of 4.133 million barrels, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday.

Overall, the combined output for the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) for April was expected to be around 16.8-16.9 million barrels a day, the oil weekly said.

That's two million barrels more than last month and about one million barrels above the ceiling set last December in a production-cutback agreement in Geneva aimed at boosting oil prices after last year's slump.

Saudi output for the first three weeks of April was just above the quota, marking a sizeable increase over March, but was expected to ease by the end of the month, the Nicosia-based survey noted.

It said that the Saudis, the world's third biggest producer, do not favour pushing oil prices beyond the current level of \$18 a barrel until world demand improves.

The weekly stressed that the Saudis are not moving towards a more hawkish stand on prices despite reports from U.S. congressional and oil industry sources.

Quoting unidentified "authoritative Saudi sources," the survey said: "There has in fact been no change in the kingdom's oil policy."

"This is firmly based on what is perceived in Saudi Arabia as the necessity to restore the competitive position of oil in general, and OPEC oil in particular, vis-a-vis other energy sources in the longer run, while at the same time maintaining a stable level of prices

permitted by its war effort."

The survey said the Nigerian production increased in April to an estimated 1.2 million barrels a day, just under its quota level.

That is about its quota level

and up to 500,000 barrels a day more than its output in March.

Iran, which has been at war with Iraq for 6½ years, depends

Sri Lanka reports 400 killed in anti-rebel offensive

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (Agencies) — The Sri Lankan government said Monday that 400 Tamil militants were killed in northern and eastern provinces during a five-day offensive against rebel strongholds.

Tilak Ratnayaka, chairman of the government's media centre, told the Associated Press that 230 were killed in eastern Trincomalee and Batticaloa and 150 died in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

The offensive began after Tamil terrorists exploded a bomb in Colombo's downtown bus terminal Tuesday, killing 109 people. Most of the victims were Sinhalese.

On Sunday, ground troops assaulted rebel bunkers in Jaffna, 300 kilometres north of Colombo. Scores of air raids were reported last week against suspected rebel hideouts in eastern parts of the country.

Mr. Ratnayaka said some of the victims in last week's air strikes could be Tamil civilians. He said the government had warned civilians to stay clear of militant hideouts.

The government has cut civilian telephone lines to Jaffna, making it impossible to confirm reports.

Tamil guerrillas are fighting for a separate nation in Sri Lanka.

The Tamils, who are mostly Hindus, make up 18 per cent of the nation's 16 million people. Buddhist Sinhalese make up about 75 per cent and control most of the government and military. The rest are Muslims and other minorities.

Tamils say they are discriminated against in the jobs, education and use of their language.

More than 5,500 people have been killed in four years of civil war.

Thousands of people streamed back to work Monday in Colombo.

The government Sunday lifted a near-total curfew clamped on Colombo after the car-bomb explosion.

Hospital sources said three of the injured died Sunday raising the death toll to 109.

Two Tamil rebel groups, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and its ally, the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students, were blamed by the government for the blast. Both organisations denied the accusation.

Meanwhile, a guerrilla land-

Mugabe: S. African raid aimed at winning votes

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe has said Pretoria's raid on Zambia at the weekend was aimed at catching more votes for South Africa's ruling party in next month's whites-only general elections.

"The invasion has proved true our recent warnings that the bloodthirsty racist regime was planning an evil campaign of murderous attacks against its peaceful neighbours in order to win a few more votes in the forthcoming racist and undemocratic elections," Mr. Mugabe said Sunday in a solidarity message to Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda.

Four people were killed in Saturday's early morning attack on three buildings in the southern Zambian border town of Livingstone.

South Africa said its commandos hit guerrilla targets. Zambia said all those killed were Zambian civilians.

Mr. Mugabe said: "It is down-right premeditated ritual murder in which the lives and blood of our nationals, in addition to the hundreds of lives being lost in

Casey in critical condition

GLEN COVE, New York (R) — Former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Casey, a central figure in the Iran arms scandal, remains in critical condition with pneumonia in a suburban New York hospital, officials have said.

Renee Paley, spokeswoman for Glen Cove Community Hospital on Long Island, told Reuters Sunday night that Mr. Casey's family had asked "that there be no official statements about Mr. Casey whatsoever and the hospital is abiding by that."

But a nursing supervisor said family members were at the bedside and a spokeswoman said earlier that Mr. Casey, 74, was suffering from aspiration pneumonia, fluid in his lungs, and was in critical condition in the intensive care unit.

He was admitted Saturday, the spokeswoman said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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WHERE'S THE ENTRY?

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ 5
♦ AJ 9 6 4 2
♦ 8 5 4 2
♦ 7 5
WEST
♦ KJ 7 3 2
♦ K 8 5
♦ J 3
♦ 9 8 3
SOUTH
♦ 10 8
♦ Vold
♦ K 7 6
♦ AK 10 6 4 2
THE BIDDING:
South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♦ 1 ♦
2 ♦ 2 ♦ Pass Pass
5 ♦ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Three of ♦

If the opponents thwart one of your plans, don't blindly pursue that path. Cast around for an alternative line that will give you a shot at your contract.

In the modern style, South's reverse bid of two diamonds is forcing for one round. However, West's bid removed any obligation from

North, who seized the opportunity to show his weakness by passing. South then bid what he hoped he could make.

West's trump lead struck a telling blow for his side; with any other lead, declarer would have had time to ruff a spade in dummy. Had declarer doggedly won and led a spade, West would win and play another trump, and declarer would have to surrender two spade tricks and a diamond.

One spade could go on the ace of hearts if declarer could find a way to get to the table in time. The only suit that offered any transportation was diamonds, and for that to succeed it would have to break 3-2. Since declarer would need the second trump in dummy to control spades, he immediately cashed the ace-king of diamonds, and when both defenders followed all was well. Declarer led a third round of the suit and he was in control.

No matter what the defenders did, declarer was home. West ruffed the third diamond and led another trump, but the eight of diamonds was declarer's entry to the board to take a spade discard on the ace of hearts, and all was well.

The report is to be given to heads of government, discussed at a wide range of international forums, and forwarded to the United Nations General Assembly this fall with a recommendation to start a "programme of sustainable development."

"The next few decades are crucial," the report says. "The

Salvagers refloat wrecked U.K. ferry

ZEELBURGGE, Belgium (R) — The British car ferry Herald of Free Enterprise, which capsized on March 6 with a loss of about 200 lives, was refloated Monday off the Belgian coast and was expected to be towed into port later.

Mr. Jayewardene told a meeting Sunday in Karandeniya that the difference of opinion between the government and other democratic opposition parties seemed to be about the steps necessary to eliminate terrorists and terrorism.

He said: "We all agree on certain principles in the present situation faced by the country."

"If so why cannot all democratic political parties cooperate with the government in its efforts to protect these principles."

Opposition parties have criticised the government's handling of the ethnic conflict.

Banks and markets opened Monday and city streets were filled with people returning to work after a tense week. Customers crowded shopping centres.

The Colombo Tea Auction, the biggest in the world, was held as scheduled Monday morning and brokers prepared to hold other auctions for rubber and spices during the week. These sales had been disrupted last week.

Security forces were on maximum alert and patrolled key locations in the capital.

Meanwhile, a guerrilla land-

Nixon calls for nuclear missile deal for Asia

NEW YORK (R) — Nuclear weapons should be eliminated from Asia if the United States and the Soviet Union agree to remove intermediate-range missiles from Europe, former President Richard Nixon said in an interview.

Mr. Nixon told Time magazine in the interview published Sunday that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev proposed the so-called zero option earlier this month because he was looking at a broad political and military picture for the future.

The Dutch salvage firm Smit Tak reported the ship afloat after three hours of pumping out thousands of tonnes of water and sludge.

By midday, tugs and giant floating cranes were set to begin half-pulling, half-carrying the battered wreck back into Zeebrugge Harbour, Hans Walenkamp, head of the salvage operation said.

Mr. Nixon, who resigned the presidency in 1974, said President Reagan would oppose any agreement his successor might reach with Moscow if he leaves office without signing an accord.

"It's possible that Gorbachev now wants to get Reagan involved in arms control, give him a stake in the process, so that he won't mobilise opposition to it in the future."

Mr. Nixon said the zero option must be kept in perspective.

"If we get rid of all those missiles covered by the offer, we're still talking about less than

Sikh extremists kill 6 in continuing Punjab violence

CHANDIGARH, India (R) — Suspected Sikh extremists killed an elderly couple in Punjab early Monday and four other people, including a border guard, Sunday night, police said.

The six deaths brought the toll this month in separatist-related violence in the north Indian state to 81, according to an unofficial count.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said 80-year-old Sikh Naranjan Singh Sewadar and his 70-year-old wife, were shot in a village near Hoshiarpur. There was no immediate explanation for the attack.

A police spokesman in Chandigarh, the Punjab capital, said Inspector K.K. Sharma of the

India announces review of nuclear policy

NEW DELHI (R) — India said Monday it had decided to review its nuclear policy, hitherto restricted to peaceful uses, because of what it called an "emerging nuclear threat" from Pakistan.

Addressing the Lower House of Parliament, Defence Minister K.C. Pant said: "The emerging nuclear threat to us from Pakistan is forcing us to review our options.

He made clear at a separate news conference that Mr. Lange's ban on nuclear-ship visits, which has led to the suspension of New Zealand's defence cooperation with the United States and halted visits by British and American warships, could trigger a European Community trade backlash.

He said Britain would continue to help New Zealand sell its dairy produce in the EC and then pointedly added:

"But with your current defence policy, it is a fact of life that your cause is less likely to prevail in the European Community, 11 of which it had not won in three times been 'plain spoken.'

He called for a separate news conference that Mr. Lange's ban on nuclear-ship visits, which has led to the suspension of New Zealand's defence cooperation with the United States and halted visits by British and American warships, could trigger a European Community trade backlash.

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